



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

November 2003

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter

Free King County Programs for Schools

Last Chance to "Hop on the Habitat Express"

"It was one of the best assemblies we've had." "Great assembly with key ideas presented in a 'fun' mode." "Each child connected."

These are just a few of the comments received about the Fall presentation of King County's free assembly "Hop on the Habitat Express." The assembly relates the concepts of habitat stewardship and conservation of natural resources in a context relevant to elementary students. Three classrooms then have the opportunity for follow-up workshops that build on these messages. Assistance and



mini-grants to classrooms that want to start an environmental project are available to all. The assembly is available to King County schools outside Seattle with at least 100 students. For more information or to take advantage of the openings in January-March 2004, contact Darcie Garland-Renn at (206) 583-0655, ext. 25 or workshops@triangleassociates.com.

Hands-On, Interactive Classroom Workshops for Secondary Students

King County's free, environmental education workshops build on critical thinking skills and are challenging and fun. All workshops integrate Essential Academic Learning Requirements including Communications, Science, Geography and Reading. Each workshop runs 50-75 minutes, is presented in your classroom, and can be presented to up to five class periods per teacher.

Natural Connections Workshops

Biodiversity in Our World examines why protecting biodiversity is important and how we can make choices

in our everyday life that protect the vast diversity of life on our planet. *Earth Impact: Over-consumption or Sustainability?* takes a look at our purchasing choices and the impact these decisions have on our planet's natural resources. For specific details, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>. For more information or to schedule workshops, contact Andrea Petzel at (206) 583-065, ext. 12 or email workshops@triangleassociates.com.

Waste Busters Workshops

These workshops on waste

reduction, recycling and resource conservation are, taught by Pacific Science Center instructors and include *Biospheres*, *Consumption Junction*, *Sorting It Out*, *Weigh the Waste*, and *Zero in on Waste* for grades 6-8. For grades 9-12, teachers can select from *Biospheres*, *Count on Recycling*, *Face the Waste*, and *Waste Not, Want Not*. For specific details, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>. For more information or to schedule workshops, call (206) 443-2851 or email waste_busters@pacsci.org.

Don't Let the Holidays Go to Waste

Five million extra tons of trash are produced between Thanksgiving and New Years Day in the United States each year. The King County Solid Waste Division is asking residents, including teachers and students, to "take the pledge to reduce holiday waste." Use the enclosed pledge card to spread the word and register your commitment on the King County Waste Free Holiday web page. Regular updates to the website will list participating schools and show how many students and teachers are committing to reduce waste during the holidays. Let others in King County know what actions you're taking. Go to <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/wastefreeholidays/wfh.htm> or enter "waste free holidays" in your favorite search engine. Find discounts and other tips there on making your holidays more fun with less trash.

Don't Let the Holidays Go to Waste



I will trim my holiday waste

Signature _____

Name: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____

I will: ☐ Give experiences instead of stuff.

☐ Reduce packaging, decorating and party waste.

☐ Reuse gift-wrap and other materials.

☐ Recycle holiday wrapping, cards and trees.

☐ Buy products with recycled content.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rejoice

Join the many others in the Puget Sound region who will reduce waste during the holidays.

Give experiences instead of stuff

I will: ☐ Give tickets to sports, theater or other events.

☐ Give services or time instead of stuff.

☐ Give a donation to charity in someone else's name.

Reduce waste

I will: ☐ Purchase products with the least or no packaging.

☐ Avoid single use/disposable serving and decorating items.

☐ Give consumable (no trash or clutter left over) gifts.

☐ Send electronic holiday cards.

Reuse

I will: ☐ Wrap presents in reused gift-wrap.

☐ Make gifts and cards out of reused materials.

Recycle

I will: ☐ Recycle wrapping paper and holiday cards.

☐ Compost my holiday tree.

Buy products with recycled content

I will: ☐ Buy cards and gifts made from recycled materials.



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Go to the King County Waste Free Holiday web page and tell us what actions you're taking to reduce waste:
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/wastefreeholidays/wfh.htm>
Get your actions listed on the web!



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Service Learning Opportunities and Assistance



Are you and your students looking for ideas, assistance or funds to turn learning into environmental action? The Solid Waste Division's Green Team program has resources and staff available for your classroom. Receive support for an idea of your own, or choose a predesigned project such as improving school recycling, picking up litter, starting a worm bin for food composting, or teaching environmental topics to other students. Mini-grants are also available. Last year, 14 Green Teams received recognition and prizes for their actions as habitat stewards. For more information or to request a brochure, contact Sara GR at (206) 583-0655 or greenteam@triangleassociates.com. Or download a brochure at dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm.

Wheels to Water: More Free Buses Available for Your Field Trips

Wheels to Water, the free bus program that takes students on water quality field trips in King and south Snohomish counties, is scheduling more trips for county schools, thanks to a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for the 2003-2004 school year. In addition to increasing the number of trips available, the grant targets students in the rural areas and from low-income schools. For more information, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wheelstowater/>. All schools are welcome to reserve a bus by contacting Laura Gray at (206) 263-6028 or laura.gray@metrokc.gov.

Free In-Class Presentations on Household Hazardous Products

Interested in having your students learn about hazardous products, but don't want to teach it yourself? Contact Gail Gensler, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, at (206) 263-3082 or gail.gensler@metrokc.gov. Details are available at www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers/.

Two School Districts Participate in King County's Green Schools Program

During the 2003-04 school year, two King County school districts, Shoreline and Vashon, are participating in the Green Schools Program. In addition, several individual schools, including Evergreen School in Shoreline and Three Cedars School in Bellevue, are working to become Green Schools.

Each participating school or school district focuses on "waste reduction and recycling" and then chooses one to three additional categories from the following list: hazardous materials management, environmental purchasing, litter reduction, water conservation, energy conservation, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing environmental issues in the curriculum.



With assistance from King County, participating schools set measurable goals, decide what strategies will be used to reach their goals, and then make improvements. Every school that makes changes to improve its conservation practices is recognized as a Green School.

If your school is interested in becoming a Green School or in conserving resources and saving dollars, contact Dale Alekel at (206) 296-8457 or dale.alekel@metrokc.gov. Check out the web site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/greenschools/>.

AWARDS/GRANTS

Awards for Sustainable Schools

The Terry Husseman Sustainable Schools Award Program, sponsored by the WA Department of Ecology, provides grants to schools in the following three categories:

- *Seed Award*-\$2,500 each to encourage schools in their start-up or improvement of sustainability programs.
- *Environmental Curriculum*-\$1,500 to recognize original curriculum that introduces schools to the concepts of sustainability and instills a sense of environmental stewardship in students.
- *Sustainable School*-\$1,500 each to schools that exhibit elements of the five areas of sustainability: Resource/Energy Conservation, Biological Diversity, Waste & Toxicity Reduction, Social Harmony, and Health & Wellness. Crestwood Elementary, Kent School District, was one of eight schools that received this award last year.

For more information on the awards program, criteria or ideas to foster sustainability in your school, contact Awards Coordinator, Michelle Payne, dav461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6129 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/terryhusseman.html>.

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes honors outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Each year, the Barron Prize awards ten winners ages 8-18 with \$2,000 cash prizes. Half of the winners have focused on helping their communities and fellow beings; half have focused on protecting the health and sustainability of the environment. For more information on eligibility and nominations, visit www.barronprize.org.



Integrate Safer Alternatives and Label Reading into Your Curriculum

January 10th or February 7th 2004

Teachers throughout King County have been teaching their students how to read labels, choose safer alternatives, and dispose of household hazardous products since 1993 as a result of the *Hazards on the Home-front* Teacher Workshops. Designed to address a variety of learning styles as well as the types of questions on the science WASL test, the material relates science and environmental issues to students' everyday choices. In addition to free training, teachers who attend these workshops receive ready-to-use lesson plans, overheads, and student handouts, and qualify for free follow-up classroom assistance and mini-grants. Clock hours and a stipend are available for certified King County teachers on completion of workshop objectives.

Half-day workshops for teachers



grades 4-12 are offered Saturday, January 10 in Shoreline and Saturday, February 7 in Renton. To register or more information, contact Darcie Garland-Renn at 206-583-0655 x25 or by email at workshops@triangleassociates.com.

"I found that this workshop was extremely beneficial in teaching us how to educate our students about hazardous waste. I really appreciate the printed information in the teacher's guide as well as what EALRs it lines up with. Great job!"

Fourth-grade teacher

"The workshop was better than expected with lots of great ideas for teaching HHW to students and very appropriate to my subject area and I never would have thought of doing it myself."

11th grade practical chemistry teacher

The 2003-04 Programs for Educators Directory is now available. Find programs of interest to educators on topics ranging from cultural diversity to water quality and wildlife in this directory. Call (206) 296-4466 or download a copy from <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/EduDir.htm>.

**For more details on these and other programs,
visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>**



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